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ITEM NO=00448928

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX457 MCN = 90081/05873 TOR = 900810310

OTTUZYUW RUEKJCS4488 0810310-UUUU--RUEALGX.

ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

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FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

RUEAAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC

RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC

RUEADWD/PTC WASH DC

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE

RUEAMCG/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC

RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL

RUEOAGC/CDRPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//

RUEALGX/SAFE

R 200756Z MAR 90

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

RUTAKA/AMCONSUL KADUNA 1364

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 04488

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date

☒ RELEASE ☐ DECLASSIFY

☐ EXCISE ☐ DECLASSIFY

☐ DENY ☐ IN PART

☐ DELETE Non-Responsive Info

FOIA Exemptions

PA Exemptions

MR Cases Only:

EO Citations

TS

☐ CLASSIFY as ☐ S or ☐

☐ DOWNGRADE TS to ☐ S or ☐

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (KADUNA ADDED FOR ACTION

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: PREL, ECON, NI

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF 18TH SULTAN OF SOKOTO

1. SUMMARY: IN A CEREMONY FILLED WITH TRADITION, COLOR, AND CALLS FOR UNITY, ALHAJI IBRAHIM DASUKI RECEIVED THE STAFF OF OFFICE, OFFICIALLY BECOMING THE EIGHTEENTH SULTAN OF SOKOTO ON MARCH 15. THE EMIRS OF KANO, KATSINA, ZARIA AND LLORIN AS WELL AS NUMEROUS OTHER TRADITIONAL LEADERS, GOVERNORS, OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS ATTENDED THE CEREMONY, WHICH OVERSHADOWED THE LINGERING RESENTMENT OF DASUKI'S SELECTION STILL TO BE FOUND. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 15, SIXTEEN MONTHS AFTER BEING ELECTED BY THE EMIRATE COUNCIL TO SUCCEED ABUBAKAR III AS THE SULTAN OF SOKOTO, ALHAJI IBRAHIM DASUKI FINALLY RECEIVED THE TRADITIONAL SWORD AND GOLD STAFF SYMBOLIZING THE ESTEEMED OFFICE. HIS ELECTION,

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MARRIED BY OPPOSITION FROM SOME GROUPS AND RESULTING IN VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, CAUSED A SPLIT AMONG THE NORTHERN NIGERIAN MUSLIM LEADERS. UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE CEREMONY SOME OF THE KEY TRADITIONAL LEADERS, SUCH AS THE EMIR OF KANO, HAD NOT ACKNOWLEDGED DASUKI'S ELECTION AS LEGITIMATE. WHETHER OR NOT THE EMIR OF KANO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE A KEY TO DASUKI'S FUTURE. THUS, THE FACT THAT THE EMIRS OF KANO, KATSINA, ZARIA AND ILORIN, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS ATTENDED THE CEREMONY WAS A SIGNIFICANT SYMBOL OF AT LEAST THE BEGINNING OF THE REUNIFICATION OF MUSLIM LEADERS AND ACQUIESCENCE TO DASUKI'S TITULAR LEADERSHIP.

3. PRESIDENT BABANGIDA DID NOT ATTEND THE CEREMONY, BUT WAS REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF AND CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GENERAL SANI ABACHA. IBB SENT A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE URGING THE NEW SULTAN TO USE HIS OFFICE TO FURTHER THE GOALS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN MOVING TOWARD CIVILIAN RULE. AMBASSADORS HAMZAT AMADU AND IBRAHIM GAMBARI WERE BOTH PRESENT, AS WERE FORMER HEADS OF STATE GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON AND ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI, NUMEROUS MINISTERS, AFRC MEMBERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ELITE IN NIGERIA. THE GOVERNMENT CHARTERED THREE FLIGHTS TO TRANSPORT INVITED GUESTS FROM LAGOS TO THE CEREMONIES.

4. DASUKI WAS PRESENTED THE STAFF OF OFFICE BY THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOKOTO, COL. AHMED DAKU, WHO ALSO URGED UNITY, CALLING ON THOSE WHO VIED FOR THE THRONE WITH THE SULTAN TO FORGET THE PAST IN THE INTEREST OF UNITY, PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN SOKOTO AND IN NIGERIA AS A WHOLE.

5. DASUKI'S SPEECH, LIKEWISE, WAS CONCILIATORY, FORGIVING "ALL THOSE WHO, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWINGLY, WORKED OR TRIED TO WORK AGAINST ME." HE URGED EVERYONE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SEE THE TRANSITION THROUGH, SAYING THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED FOR NIGERIANS TO COME TOGETHER, SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AND ASSIST THE PRESIDENT IN LEADING THE COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION REQUIRED ALL NIGERIANS TO RISE TO THE OCCASION AND STRIVE FOR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

6. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, A GRAND DURBAR WAS HELD, COMPLETE WITH ONE THOUSAND HORSES AND FIVE HUNDRED CAMELS. THE SULTAN, WHO ARRIVED AT THE CEREMONY IN A WHITE MERCEDES LIMOUSINE, SAT THROUGH THE ENTIRE DURBAR, AND AT THE END MOUNTED HIS HORSE

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AND PARTICIPATED IN THE TRADITIONAL RIDE. RIDING IN THE SULTAN'S CONTINGENT, ALSO ON HORSEBACK, WAS ALHAJI ABUBAKAR ALHAJI (TRIPLE A), MINISTER OF BUDGET AND PLANNING, WHO IS SLATED TO BECOME THE SARDAUNA OF SOKOTO ON APRIL 17.

7. THE FOLLOWING DAY'S PRESS REPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SULTAN IBRAHIM DASUKI FOUNDATION, WITH AN INITIAL DONATION OF N250,000 BY THE SULTAN HIMSELF, TO FURTHER RESEARCH, STUDIES, PRESERVATION, TRANSLATION, AND PUBLICATION OF WORKS ON THE SOKOTO CALIPHATE.

8. COMMENT: THE SULTAN OF SOKOTO IS THE HIGHEST RANKING MUSLIM LEADER IN NIGERIA. DASUKI'S SELECTION FOLLOWED THE DEATH OF HIS PREDECESSOR ABUBAKAR III, WHO SERVED IN THIS EXTREMELY POWERFUL POSITION FOR FIFTY YEARS AND WAS UNIVERSALLY REVERED. THE SELECTION PROCESS WAS CONTROVERSIAL. ATTENDANCE BY SO MANY RELIGIOUS LEADERS IS A POSITIVE SIGN THAT THE RIFTS ARE HEALING AND THE

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (KADUNA ADDED FOR ACTION)

E.O. 12356: N/A

FACTIONS ARE COMING BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT WILL LESSEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF RELIGIOUS DISSENSION AMONG THE MUSLIMS IN THE NEAR TERM.

9. BIO DATA: ALHAJI IBRAHIM DASUKI WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 31, 1923 IN SOKOTO. HE IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF USMAN DAN FODIO, THE FOUNDER OF THE SOKOTO CALIPHATE. HE ATTENDED KADUNA COLLEGE AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY. EARLY POSITIONS INCLUDED PERSONAL SECRETARY TO AHMADU BELLO, DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND PAKISTAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF NORTHERN NIGERIA ON THE CENSUS BOARD THAT CARRIED OUT THE 1963 CENSUS. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE 1977-78 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS. HE IS ALSO A BUSINESSMAN, HAVING SERVED AS CHAIRMAN AND MAJOR SHAREHOLDER IN THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL, DIRECTOR OF NUMEROUS COMPANIES AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION. WALKER

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